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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------001246 140012Z /61
R 131738Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7976

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 10807

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF AND DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR EG US
SUBJECT: GOE REQUEST FOR ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING

REF: (A) STATE 92807, (B) CAIRO 9409

SUMMARY: GAMASY ANSWERS QUESTIONS RE GOE INTEREST IN ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MY MEETING WITH GAMASY LAST EVENING, I ALLUDED TO EARLIER QUERIES WE HAVE HAD FROM HIM AND DMI M/G SHAWKAT ABOUT ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING. I SAID EGYPTIAN IDEAS NEED REFINING BEFORE ANY FIRM COMMITMENT CAN BE MADE, BUT PRESENT INCLINATION AMONG CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES IS TO TRY TO BE RESPONSIVE. DOD LOOKING INTO TRAINING POSSIBILITIES, BUT PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT A SPECIAL COURSE MAY HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE WOULD IN DUE COURSE BE IN FURTHER TOUCH WITH GOE ON THIS MATTER, BUT IN MEANTIME I HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANSWERED IN ORDER TO CONSIDER MORE PRECISELY WHAT GOE'S REQUIREMENTS ARE AND HOW THEY MIGHT BEST BE MET. I SIMPLY WANTED HIM TO KNOW THIS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT DATT TAKE UP QUESTIONS

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WITH SHAWKAT WHEN THEY NEXT MEET.

2. GAMASY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE HOPES FINAL USG DECISION WILL BE POSITIVE. ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING, HE EMPHASIZED, IS A SUBJECT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GOE. PRESIDENT SADAT HAD PERSONALLY CHARGED HIM WITH HANDLING OF THIS MATTER, HENCE HE PREFERRED TO ANSWER

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WHATEVER QUESTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE RATHER THAN HAVE SHAWKAT DO SO. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT SPECIAL RANGER UNIT HAS ALREADY BEEN EARMARKED FOR THIS PURPOSE. (HE DID NOT INDICATE SIZE.) PRESENT GOE THINKING, GAMASY CONTINUED, IS TO SEND THREE SMALL TEAMS OF TEN OR SO--ONE EACH TO THE U.S., FRG AND FRANCE--FOR ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING IN THOSE COUNTRIES. FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF THESE TEAMS, GOE CAN ASSIMILATE INTO ITS OWN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT TRAINING, DOCTRINAL, EQUIPMENT AND TACTICAL EXPERIENCE DERIVED FROM EACH OF THE THREE COUNTRIES. THE SPECIAL EGYPTIAN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, HE STRESSED, IS SECRET AND GOE IS NOT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A UNIT.

3. WE THEN WENT THROUGH THE QUESTIONS CITED REF A. FOLLOWING ARE GAMASY'S REPLIES KEYED TO PARA 2 LETTERING OF REF A:

(A) EGYPTIAN PARTICIPANTS IN PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAM WILL BE MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. IT HAD BEEN HIS THINKING THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE EMBARRASS-MENT FOR USG, THEY MIGHT 8E IN CIVILAIN CLOTHES. IF, HOWEVER, IT IS AGREEABLE TO USG THAT THEY BE IN UNIFORM, GOE WOULD MUCH PREFER THIS. (I EXPLAINED TO GAMASY STATUTORY PROHIBITION AGAINST TRAINING AND POLICE FUNCTIONS.) GAMASY ALSO HOPED THAT, IF USG WILLING UNDER-

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TAKE SUCH TRAINING PROGRAM, EGYPTIAN PARTICIPANTS MIGHT BE HOUSED IN BOQS AND BE GIVEN INTENSIVE DAY AND NIGHT TRAINING. HE DID NOT WANT THEM "FOOLING AROUND TOWN" AFTER HOURS.

(B) GOE PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO FUND DESIGN AND IMPLE-MENTATION OF SPECIAL PROGRAM. BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER, A COST ESTIMATE IS NEEDED.

(C) GOE HAS NO TIME LIMITATION FOR SUCH TRAINING. GAMASY SAID "ONE MONTH, TWO MONTHS, THREE MONTHS, WHATEVER MIGHT BE NEEDED." HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT TRAINING PROGRAM NEED NOT BE TOO LONG. OFFICERS AND/OR NCOS WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED WILL BE RANGERS WHO WILL HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE PHYSICAL TRAINING AS WELL AS IN FIRING ALL KINDS OF WEAPONS.

(D) EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON HIGHJACKING/HOSTAGE PREVENTION. WHEN I MENTIONED URBAN TERRORISM, GAMASY DID NOT AT FIRST UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS WAS AND I HAD TO EXPLAIN IT TO HIM. EVEN AFTER I HAD DONE SO, HE STATED PRIMARY FOCUS SHOULD BE HIGHJACKING/HOSTAGE PREVENTION.

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(E) GAMASY SAID EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO INSURE THAT ANY PERSONNEL SENT TO U.S. FOR TRAINING WILL HAVE AN ADEQUATE COMPREHENSION OF ENGLISH SO THAT PRELIMINARY LANGUAGE TRAINING WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. HE NOTED WE ARE MUCH MORE INSISTENT ON ADEQUATE ENGLISH COMPREHENTION THAN OTHERS, FOR EXAMPLE BRITISH, ARE. I EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THIS AND HE DID NOT ARGUE THE POINT. AFTER THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A MOMENT, HE SAID PERHAPS ALL OR MOST OF THE PERSONNEL SENT TO THE

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U.S. WOULD BE OFFICERS WHO KNOW SOME ENGLISH. CONCEIVABLY ONE OR TWO OF THE NCOS MIGHT ALSO BE SENT, BUT THEY WOULD BE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH.

(F) GAMASY'S ANSWER WAS SOMEWHAT AMBIVALENT. HE SAID THE RETURNING TRAINEES WILL BE INTEGRATED AS ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, BUT WILL ALSO ACT AS INSTRUCTORS.

(G) GAMASY UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE US WITH MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON TYPE AND QUANTITY OF ANTI-TERRORIST WEAPONS DESIRED. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT INITIAL PLAN TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT IN U.S., FRANCE AND FRG HAD BEEN SHELVED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS TRAINEES COME BACK AND WEAPONS USED BY THESE COUNTRIES FOR ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES CAN BETTER BE EVALUATED.

(H) GOE, ACCORDING TO GAMASY, PREFERS TO GIVE PROGRAM NO PUBLICITY. HE UNDERSTOOD NEED TO INFORM KEY

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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, BUT ASKED IF THIS MIGHT BE
DONE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND IF MEMBERS COULD BE
ASKED TO KEEP SUCH INFORMATION ON RESTRICTED BASIS.
IF IT SHOULD LEAK, GOE WOULD SIMPLY PROPOSE TO SAY
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THAT SUCH PERSONNEL ARE IN U.S. UNDERGOING RANGER
COURSE. HE NOTED THIS WAS HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION TO
OUR QUESTION AND THAT HE WOULD WANT TO THINK OVER THE
MATTER A BIT MORE.

(I) GOE IS COMPLETELY FLEXIBLE ON TIMING. "WE ARE
READY WHENEVER YOU ARE." GOE WILL NEED ABOUT TEN DAYS
ADVANCE NOTICE, HOWEVER, TO GET THE PERSONNEL READY.

(J) IF USG WILLING OR INSISTS ON SENDING TAFT OR MTT
TEAMS TO EGYPT, HE IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER THIS. HE
THEN MADE TWO ADDITIONAL REMARKS: FIRST, HE THOUGHT
ANY SUCH TEAM SHOULD COME AFTER EGYPTIAN TRAINEES HAVE
RETURNED FROM TRAINING IN U.S. AND NOT BE A SUBSTI-
TUTE FOR SUCH CONUS TRAINING. SECOND, IF ONLY ONE
COUNTRY WERE WILLING TO TRAIN THE ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT,
IT WOULD CLEARLY BE MUCH MORE SECRET. IF USG WERE
WILLING TO DO SO WITH SUCH TAFT AND/OR MTTS, GOE WOULD
NOT ASK FOR FRANCE OR FRG TRAINING ASSISTANCE. HE
ASKED FOR OUR REACTION TO SUCH A CONCEPT. I WAS NON-
COMMITTAL.

4. RE PARA THREE REF A, IF FRG EARLIER TURNED DOWN
REQUEST FOR SUCH TRAINING, GAMASY DOES NOT SEEM TO
KNOW ABOUT IT. HE STILL SPOKE OF FRG BEING ONE OF
THE COUNTRIES WHICH EGYPT IS THINKING OF ASKING FOR
SUCH TRAINING ASSISTANCE.

5. RE PARA 4, GAMASY CONFIRMED THAT GOE IS INDEED
LOOKING FOR HIGHLY SPECIALIZED CAPABILITY TO HANDLE
HOSTAGE RESCUE OPERATIONS. (IN VIEW FYI NATURE OF
COMMENT ON THIS POINT (PARA 4 REFTEL), I MADE NOT
COMMENT ON THIS POINT. EILTS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, COUNTERINSURGENCY, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO10807
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780159-1065
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780462/aaaacamc.tel
Line Count: 219
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ccfa39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 92807, 78 CAIRO 9409
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2984906
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOE REQUEST FOR ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING
TAGS: MARR, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ccfa39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014